WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of visualization of a part having metallic objects against a light colored non-metallic background comprising:

illuminating the part with electromagnetic radiation that is linearly polarized in a predetermined first direction, and

forming an image of electromagnetic radiation reflected from the part viewed through a linear polarization filter oriented for passing electromagnetic radiation that is linearly polarized in a second direction that is substantially orthogonal to the first direction,

whereby in the formed image, an improved contrast between the metallic objects and the background is produced.

2. The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising recognizing the metallic objects in the formed image.

3. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is light, and the image is formed by a camera.

4. The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is light, the image is formed by a camera of a computer vision system, and said recognizing is performed by the computer vision system.

5. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the part is a ball grid array, the light colored background is dielectric, and the metallic objects are balls arranged in an array carried by the dielectric.

6. The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the part is a ball grid array, the light colored background is dielectric, and the metallic objects are balls arranged in an array carried by the dielectric.

7. Apparatus for visualization of a part having metallic objects against a light colored non-metallic background comprising:

one or more sources for illuminating the part with electromagnetic radiation that is linearly polarized, at least one of the sources producing electromagnetic radiation that is linearly polarized in a predetermined first direction, and

an image forming device for forming an image of electromagnetic radiation reflected from the part viewed through a linear polarization filter oriented for passing electromagnetic radiation that is linearly polarized in a second direction that is substantially orthogonal to the first direction,

whereby in the formed image, an improved contrast between the metallic objects and the background is produced.

8. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising a computer vision system for recognizing the

metallic objects in the formed image.

9. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is light, and the image forming device is a camera.

10. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is light, and the image forming device is a camera of the computer vision system.

11. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the part is a ball grid array, the light colored background is dielectric, and the metallic objects are balls arranged in an array carried by the dielectric.

12. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the part is a ball grid array, the light colored background is dielectric, and the metallic objects are balls arranged in an array carried by the dielectric.

13. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, further comprising a manipulator for positioning the part on a circuit board or card with recognized metallic objects of the part in registration with contact pads of the board or card.

14. The apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising a manipulator for positioning the ball grid array on a circuit board or card with recognized balls of the ball grid array in registration with contact pads of

the board or card.

15. A circuit board or card on which is surface mounted a part that has been recognized in accordance with the method of Claim 12, such surface mounting being with recognized metallic objects of the part in registration with contact pads of the board or card.

16. A circuit board or card on which is surface mounted a ball grid array that has been recognized in accordance with the method of Claim 6, such surface mounting being with recognized balls of the ball grid array in registration with contact pads of the board or card.